GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1895
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
PRESERVATION OF AJANTA AND ELLORA CAVES
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any concrete scheme for the preservation of Ajanta and Ellora so as to attract more foreign tourists;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some important murals of the Ajanta caves are constantly fading away;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard along with the expenditure incurred thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) The process of preservation and conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves by the Archaeological Survey of Indiais done on a continuous basis. Under a programme funded by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF)now called the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), the items of works indicated in the annexure have been completed.

(c), (d) & (e) The Ajanta murals have been executed in the tempera style using mainly earth colours with binding medium on a mud plaster base. While there is no fading of murals, the effect of suspended particulate matter and other accretionary deposit makes the appearance slightly dull. In order to preserve the murals, the visitors` entry is controlled and flash light is not permitted for photography inside the caves.

The expenditure incurred on structural conservation and chemical preservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves in the last three years is given as under:

Year	Ajanta	Ellora
1998-1999	Rs.42,28,731/-	Rs.36,88,173/-
1999-2000	Rs.20,77,462/-	Rs.10,75,448/-
2000-2001	Rs.14,42,095/-	Rs.6,85,622/-

Annexure referred to in reply to part `a` & `b` of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1895 replied to on 29.11.2001

AJANTA CAVES

1. Widening of pathway between booking office to cave No.1 & providing safety barricades.

2. All drain works required for surface water management.

ELLORA CAVES

2. Retaining wall with barricades from cave No.5 to 15.